

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCA-01 JUSE-00 CPR-02 EB-11 TRSE-00

PPT-02 RSC-01 INSE-00 /039 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:JKBISHOP:BF
APPROVED BY AF/W:JLLOUGHRAN
S/CPR - MR. WHITEHEAD
L/M/SCA - MR. BLAKESLAY (INFO)
JUSTICE - MR. R. WEIDNER (INFO)

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P 262125Z JUN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 137740

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BGEN, PFOR, GH
SUBJECT: CONTINENTAL BANK AND BLAY-MIEZAH

REF: ACCRA 3425

1. CONTENTS REFTEL PASSED DUNN WITHOUT REFERENCE DEBRAH.
COPY OF WILL HAS NOT ARRIVED.
2. IN MEETINGS WITH CONTINENTAL BANK'S ATTORNEYS, BLAY-MIEZAH HAS BEEN ABLE ANSWER QUESTIONS TO LAWYERS' SATISFACTION. BLAY-MIEZAH CLAIMS NKURUMAH INTENDED HAVE 160 MILLION DLS USED FOR DEVELOPMENT HIS TRIBAL AREA, WHICH HAD NOT BENEFITED EQUALLY WITH OTHER TRIBAL AREAS IN GOG DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES.
3. DUNN BELIEVES OTHER PHILADELPHIA BANKS MAY HAVE BEEN APPROACHED EARLIER BY BLAY-MIEZAH. HOWEVER, DUNN UNWILLING CONTACT THESE BANKS OR DILWORTH TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THEIR CONTACTS, IF ANY, WITH BLAY-MIEZAH.
4. COPPOLINO SAYS HE HAS NOT SEEN LEYMAN WILL, ONLY CER-

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TIFIED COPIES OF EXTRACTS.

5. CHINERY DUE DELIVER BLAY-MIEZAH'S DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT TO COPPOLINO AND DUNN JUNE 27, TOGETHER WITH SOME SORT OF STATEMENT FROM GHANA EMBASSY WASHINGTON TESTIFYING TO

BLAY-MIEZAH'S DIPLOMATIC STATUS. DUNN AND COPPOLINO SCHEDULED DEPART PHILADELPHIA FOR ZURICH JUNE 30 TO VERIFY EXISTENCE OF WILL AND ACCOUNT. BLAY-MIEZAH HAS GIVEN COPPOLINO POWER OF ATTORNEY AUTHORIZING HIM TAKE STEPS REQUIRED FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO CONTINENTAL BANK.

6. BLAY-MIEZAH TELEPHONED DESKOFF JUNE 24 ASKING WHAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN FOR HIM TO OBTAIN DIPLOMATIC VISA REQUIRED BY INS PHILADELPHIA TO REGULARIZE HIS STATUS IN US. DESKOFF REPLIED THAT SUCH APPLICATION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY GHANA EMBASSY, WHICH FIRST WOULD HAVE TO REQUEST HIS ACCREDITATION TO USG. IN RESPONSE BLAY-MIEZAH'S SUBSEQUENT QUESTION, DESKOFF SAID DEPARTMENT COULD NOT COMMENT ON WHAT ACTION MIGHT BE TAKEN SHOULD GHANA GOVERNMENT REQUEST HIS ACCREDITATION TO USG. (FYI - GIVEN BLAY-MIEZAH'S CRIMINAL RECORD IN THIS COUNTRY AND ELSEWHERE, SUCH REQUEST PROBABLY WOULD BE DENIED.) BLAY-MIEZAH FURTHER INFORMED THAT IN ABSENCE HIS ACCREDITATION BY USG HE ENJOYS NONE OF THE PRIVILEGES OR IMMUNITIES OF DIPLOMATIC STATUS.

7. BLAY-MIEZAH SAID ACHEAMPONG SIGNED STATEMENT THREE WEEKS AGO CERTIFYING THAT CHARGES AGAINST HIM HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN. NOTIFICATION OF THIS ACTION SUPPOSEDLY BEING TRANSMITTED TO USG THROUGH INTERPOL. DESKOFF TOLD BLAY-MIEZAH NO SUCH REPORT RECEIVED BY DEPARTMENT.

8. IN RESPONSE INQUIRY FROM DESKOFF, COUNSELOR GHANA EMBASSY SAID EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS REQUEST BLAY-MIEZAH'S ACCREDITATION TO USG. DESKOFF INFORMED COUNSELOR DEPARTMENT COULD NOT SAY AT THIS TIME WHAT ITS REACTION WOULD BE WERE SUCH A REQUEST TO BE MADE.

9. DUNN ADVISED OF BLAY-MIEZAH'S RENEWED INTEREST IN HIS STATUS VIS A VIS INS, REKINDLING SUSPICIONS MONEY TRANS-
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FER PROPOSAL MAY HAVE BEEN PLOY TO OBTAIN DIPLOMATIC STATUS. AS THIS STATUS NOT CONFERRED MERELY BY ISSUANCE OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT, WHICH HOWEVER WAS ALL THAT BEQUEST ALLEGEDLY REQUIRED TO EFFECT TRANSFER, BANK WAITING TO SEE IF BLAY-MIEZAH NOW WILL INSIST ON ACCREDITATION BY USG BEFORE AUTHORIZING TRANSFER. SUCH REQUEST, DUNN OPINED, PROBABLY WOULD BE TAKEN BY BANK AS EVIDENCE WHOLE SCHEME HAS BEEN A HOAX. SISCO

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